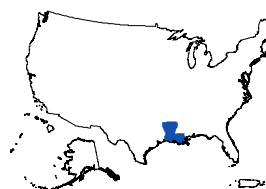


2000 Forestry Incentives Program



Customer Focus—

Ask Kenneth Funderburk what he thinks of government cost-share programs and you will see a smile on his face. Since 1998, Kenneth has used FIP and EQIP to make productive and beneficial changes to his farming operations. He runs a 240-acre poultry/cattle/timber operation in the Dess/Antioch Community of West Central Sabine Parish. In 1998, Kenneth signed up for EQIP to construct a waste storage facility for his 80,000-bird broiler operation. The installation of a 40 by 88 foot waste storage facility, along with the installation of an incinerator, completed his poultry waste management system. Under EQIP he is carrying out nutrient management, prescribed grazing, waste utilization, heavy use area protection, and upland wildlife habitat management.

In 1999, Kenneth used FIP to put 38 acres of pasture into genetically improved loblolly pine woodland. Under the program, he carried out forest site preparation and tree planting. A conservation plan was also developed with Kenneth agreeing to implement Louisiana Voluntary Forest Best Management Practices. A professional forester manages this forest land.

FIP has worked extremely well for small-scale landowners in Louisiana. Kenneth would recommend FIP and EQIP to anyone interested in participating in a government cost-share program and would use these programs in the future if the need arises.

The Sabine Soil and Water District selected Kenneth as the Goodyear/NACD Conservation Farmer of the Year for Sabine Parish for his outstanding conservation work. He will be honored at the Sabine SWCD Awards luncheon in December.

Louisiana Summary

Overview

The importance of Louisiana's forests has been well documented. Trees are the number one crop and account for more than 50 percent of the agriculture income in the state. They are the single largest land use occupying 13.8 million acres, nearly half of the state's total land area. Most timberland in Louisiana is owned by private nonindustrial landowners, which amounts to 8.9 million acres or 64 percent of the total forested area. Louisiana has 148,000 small, private, nonindustrial forest landowners. Average Forestry Incentives Program (FIP) contract is 44 acres.

Accomplishments

FY 2000 was an active year for the FIP in Louisiana. Fifty-one landowners completed practices and received cost-share payments in the amount of \$115,613 through regular and disaster allocations. The number of acres involved was 2,465, which amounted to about 1,712,200 seedlings being planted. Site preparation was performed on 846 acres. Funds have been obligated to an additional 168 landowners amounting to \$567,855, which will result in 7,211 acres being planted in the 2001 planting season. In FY 99 and FY 2000, over \$756, 300 in FIP disaster funds were obligated with 199 participants, covering 7,834 acres.

Outlook

Louisiana's private, nonindustrial forest landowners are a sociologically and economically diverse group whose forest resource management objectives include timber management, recreation, aesthetics, wildlife management, and livestock grazing.

State Contact

Donald Lawrence, State Forester USDA – NRCS Alexandria, Louisiana SO (318) 473-7804



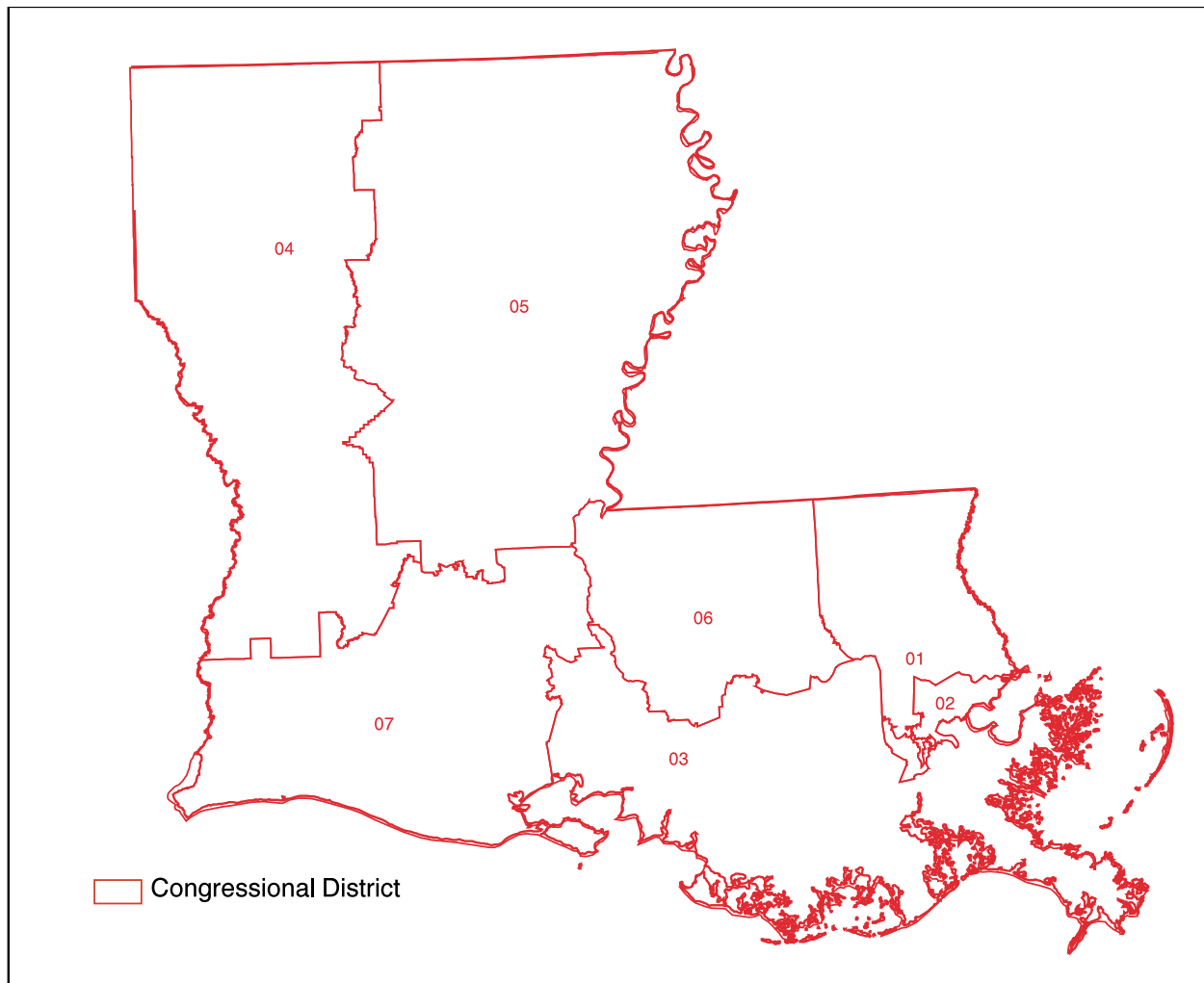
Concerns

Many private, nonindustrial forest landowners in Louisiana practice a limited amount of forest management. Most of the private, nonindustrial forest land needs management. About half of it is either overstocked, in need of cutting, or has not been properly regenerated.

- Private, nonindustrial forest land in Louisiana, on the average, is not producing up to its capabilities.
- Much of the harvested acreage in Louisiana is not regenerated.
- Most of the private, nonindustrial forest landowners would benefit by using the services of a professional forester in their timber management.

Reforestation is critical in many areas of the state. Continuation of the present fiscal year allocation and additional funding for the Forestry Incentives Program would ensure continued timber production and provide financial incentives to landowners.

Louisiana Congressional Districts



Louisiana FIP Dollars and Contracts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2000		Cumulative Total (97-00)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	\$86,922	34	\$258,849	128
District 2				
District 3	365,392	106	1,507,134	475
District 5	195,118	56	552,214	231
District 6	35,594	10	163,226	63
District 7	35,629	13	86,820	38
State Totals	\$718,655	219	\$2,568,243	935

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